



Dartmouth Players



Our Mission: To bring the magic of live theatre to the residents of HRM

Dartmouth Players
33 Crichton Avenue, Dartmouth
Mailing Address:
23 Wildwood Boulevard
Dartmouth, NS B2W 2L7

January 2009

Fax: (902) 435-7647

Hotline: (902) 465-PLAY (465-7529)

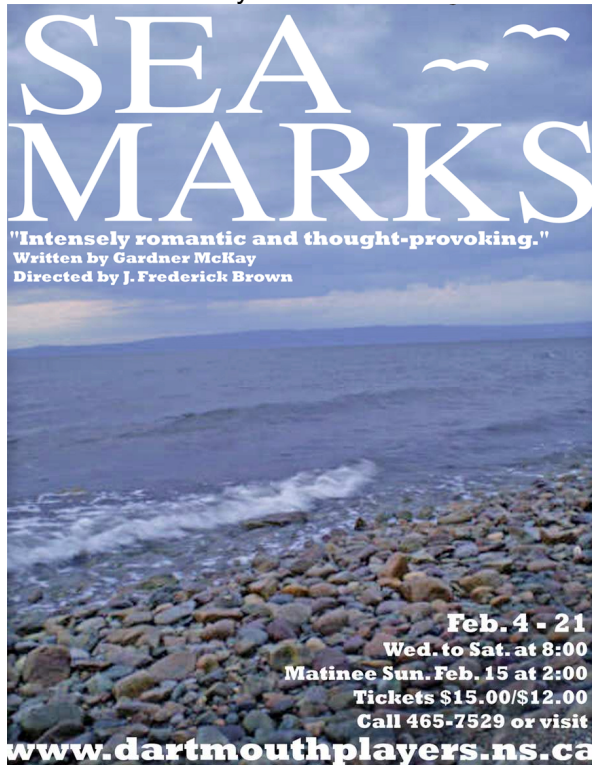
E-mail: info@dartmouthplayers.ns.ca

Website: www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca

SEA MARKS

by Gardner McKay

Directed by J. Frederick Brown



Winner of the L.A. Drama Critics Circle Best Play Award, *Sea Marks* is the touching story of a fisherman living on a remote island who has fallen in love with a woman he has glimpsed only once. Unschooled in letter-writing, he tries his utmost to court by mail and, after a year-and-a-half, succeeds in arranging a rendezvous at which, to his surprise, she persuades him to live with her - with both haunting and daunting expectations. "A masterpiece ... funny, touching, bittersweet ... deserves the fame it has achieved in regional theaters around the country."

Dartmouth Players is a **not-for-profit** society and a federally registered **charity**. No one is paid; we are all volunteers with the objective of bringing the magic of live theatre to the residents of HRM.

Calendar of Events

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Jan. 14	<i>Sea Marks</i> Reservations Open
Feb. 3-5	<i>Don't Dress for Dinner</i> Auditions
Feb. 4-21	<i>Sea Marks</i> Performances

Sea Marks

Wed. to Sat. 8pm, Feb. 4 - 21

Sun. 2pm, Feb. 15

Reservations Open Jan. 14

Adults \$15

Seniors/Students \$12

Reservations are held until 10 minutes prior to curtain. At that time they will be given to anyone waiting for cancellations. If you find that you need to cancel your reservation, please call us before 5 PM at 465-PLAY and leave a message.

Dress Rehearsals for Charity

The dress rehearsal performance of *Sea Marks* will take place 8pm Monday February 2, with proceeds supporting the following charities:

Dartmouth Hospital Auxiliary,
contact Val Conrad - 434-1707

Oakwood Terrace,
contact Nancy Manuel - 469-7965

Inside this issue of *Dartmouth Player*

Sea Marks, Our Winter Offering

Crazy for You Notes

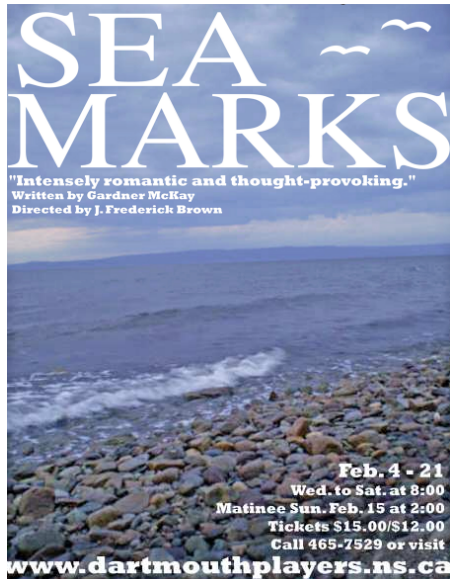
DP 2008-2009 Season

Auditions: *Don't Dress for Dinner*

Play Reading Committee Request

Home Improvements

In my theatrical endeavors I have had the privilege of working on over 300-plus stage shows. Some productions, (usually the youth oriented ones,) I have revisited and re-staged on numerous occasions. One can get tired directing *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* or *Godspell* for the fifth or sixth time. This fact can make one wonder what new directorial insights he could bring to a sixth production of anything.



So it was with great trepidation and yet with great respect (read on), that I approach my third directorial of *Sea Marks* in just over five years.

Sea Marks is a play about "words", a play about "relationships", a play about "love." I think my insights into the complicated and continually changing human issues outlined in the play's script have also changed somewhat since I first directed Gardner McKay's wonderful work.

As I grow older, the concept that "sometimes two people who appear to be absolutely made for each other but cannot live together" is becoming an all too familiar scenario. "Survival as an individual" means "separation as a couple." The fact that "No matter how deep their love for each other is, their place in their development as an individual human being puts them out-of-tune.". Whether this is a by-product of the "me at all costs" attitude of the past 50 years is debatable. For me, it certainly stems from the fact that we live in "liquid times" and can move from place to place presenting any "persona" we care to manufacture. To be "settled" or "happy with one's lot in life" can in today's hustle and bustle be viewed as "stagnation."

Winner of the L.A. Drama Critics Circle Best Play Award, *Sea Marks* is the touching story of a fisherman living on a remote island who has fallen in love with a woman he has glimpsed only once. Unschooled in letter-writing, he tries his utmost to court by mail and, after a year-and-a-half, succeeds in arranging a rendezvous at which, to his surprise, she persuades him to live with her - with both haunting and daunting expectations.

I've been drawn to this script for years; I waited for just the right venue and the perfect cast to originally stage it. It is a "tour-de-force" and there is no room for miscasting. I am happy to say that, with Rob MacIntyre and Angela Butler, I have another perfect coupling of leads with this new production.

This two-hander is challenging to say the least. It is a demanding show for director and actors alike. Every line has to be analyzed, every nuance shaped, every emotion countered. Because Rob and Angela are a "couple" in real life, it has brought a dimension to the "direction of the piece". In re-examining the piece it soon became apparent that no couple, no matter how much in love, has escaped "at least examining" the issue outlined in *Sea Marks*. The individual outcome may have been different from that of Colm and Timothea but the process was the same.

Sea Marks is part of a trilogy of plays written by Gardner McKay. I now think I have a true understanding of the issue surrounding *Sea Marks* and would like to try my hand at its sequel, *Masters of the Sea*, which immediately follows the *Sea Marks* time line.

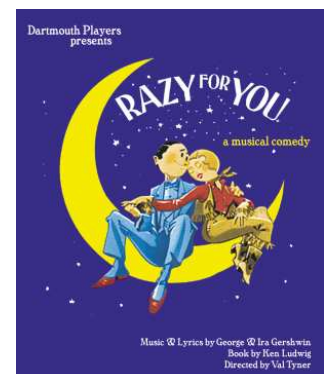
In regards to this new production of *Sea Marks*, I am not the same person or the same director, nor are the actors in the same place they were five years ago - so this production promises to be fresh and full of new insights. Guaranteed to entertain.

Jfrederickbrown

Crazy for You

What a crazy, wonderful time we had! I have to thank a very dedicated cast and crew. Everyone pulled their weight and proved the old adage "there are no small parts, only small actors." Our cast and crew were challenged with not only the acting, music and dance but also changing a complicated set; but it all worked out in the end. I must admit there were times when I wondered but thanks to the help I received we made it! I so enjoyed it and I hope to do another soon.

Valerie Tyner



AUDITION NOTICE:

Don't Dress For Dinner by Marc Camoletti
Directed by Cliff Tyner.



Six actors: 3 male, 3 female aged 20 something to 40 something. Auditions will be held upstairs at the theatre from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM on the following dates: Tuesday Feb. 3, Wednesday Feb. 4, and Thursday Feb. 5. The play will run April 15 to May 2, 2009. Monologues will be available but pre-prepared pieces are preferred.

ABOUT THE PLAY: This farcical comedy was a smash hit in Paris, where it played for over two years, and in London, where critical acclaim greeted the Apollo Theatre production.

Bernard is planning a weekend with his chic Parisian mistress in a French farmhouse. He has arranged for a cordon bleu cook to prepare gourmet delights, is packing his wife Jacqueline off to her mother's, and has even invited his best friend to provide the alibi. It's foolproof; what could possibly go wrong? Suppose Robert turns up not knowing why he has been invited? Suppose Robert and Jacqueline are secret lovers? What happens if the cook is mistaken for the mistress and the mistress is unable to cook? An evening of hilarious confusion ensues as Bernard and Robert improvise at breakneck speed.

"Hurtling along at the speed of light, [this] breathtaking farce is a near faultless piece of theatrical invention." Guardian.

"Nifty." London Sunday Times.

Cliff Tyner

Dartmouth Players 2008-2009 Season

Crazy For You by Gershwin/Ludwig	November 2008 directed by Val Tyner
Sea Marks by Gardner McKay	February 2009 directed. by J. Frederick Brown
Don't Dress for Dinner by Marc Camoletti	April 2009 directed by Cliff Tyner
Art by Yasmina Risa	June 2009 directed by Bryn Rowlands

PLAY READING COMMITTEE:



The Dartmouth Players' Play Reading Committee is now taking submissions for the 2009 - 2010 season. If you have a play that you would like to have considered, the Play Reading Committee would love to hear from you. **Submissions are due by the first of April**, and due to the high volume of plays we receive, the Play Reading Committee cannot accept any submissions made after April 1, 2009.

Note: You do not need to direct the play. If you so choose, we will find a director.

If you are interested in submitting a play, please contact us at info@dartmouthplayers.ns.ca, or look for more information on our website.

The **Dartmouth Player** Newsletter is published five times a year.

To be added to our mailing list free of charge, please send your name and address to:

Dartmouth Players
23 Wildwood Blvd.
Dartmouth, NS B2W 2L7
or e-mail: ctyner@eastlink.ca

Editor: Bryn Rowlands

Next deadline: March 11, 2009

www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca

Home Improvements

Some offstage performances have been going on at the theatre of late. One has been hard to miss, with the grounds being torn up to replace the old wooden boardwalk at long last. As usual, nothing is simple, since we made it conform to new rules that make life easier for the handicapped. The biggest improvement, of course, is the use of concrete, so traction should be much better. Add to this the use of handrails. And in case you hadn't noticed, the grade is much gentler, necessitating switchbacks to squeeze in the additional length required. This means a longer trip, of course, but it is much easier on the arms—rather like using low gear going uphill in a car. To make it easier still, it includes several level resting areas. And so far, the skateboarders don't seem to have taken to it. But don't count on that for long!

Landscaping and sodding are largely complete, with the exception of the gravelly bit at the top. Next season, this is to be turned into a paved two-car handicapped parking area, with a retaining wall on the downhill side.

The second thing you may have noticed is the new front entrance. If you didn't notice it, that's good, because an effort was made to conform to the character of its predecessor. While a few bugs in the lock remain to be fixed, it is certainly better than old Slammit Dammit.

We lost the top portion of the railings on the steps coming up from Sullivan's Pond to the lower vestibule, proving again that vandals are capable of great physical effort, if nothing else. The railing was salvageable on the east side and has been strongly braced, but the west side section was pretty thoroughly trashed. So if using the steps, please stay on the east side, away from the gymnasium building.

There is a good chance that HRM will be replacing these steps and the railings on the 2009 budget, making it concrete all the way, and so avoiding slippery wood surfaces.

If you were to enter the theatre just now, you would find work well underway to replace the seating area with a smoothly-sloped floor and the theatre-style seats which we received from the Sisters of Charity Motherhouse. The entire floor area, both sloped and level, will be tiled in subdued tones. The elimination of steps in the aisle will make footing



more secure, and eliminate the need to light the steps or use glow tape.

Because the seats are slightly wider than the ones we have been using, each row will lose one seat. And with the omission of one seat on audience right by the foot of the steps to improve wheelchair access to the washroom, this will give a total house of 104 or 105 instead of the present 114. We are presently allowed a total of 135, but this must include cast and crew, meaning we have often exceeded this limit. On occasions when a small cast and crew allow it, additional seats (our old bum-chums, in this case) can be added in front of the regular seating as we often do. We expect that audiences will find the new seats very comfortable, and being tilt-up, more convenient when letting latecomers by.

Dick Sircom

Ticket Pricing

Due to rising costs, we have had to raise our ticket prices.

A Dartmouth Players show continues to be one of the best entertainment bargains in Metro.

\$15.00 Adult, \$12.00 Senior/student

In addition, tickets to Opening Night, (the first Wednesday) of each production are a mere \$5.00.

To take advantage of this special price, make sure you reserve your seats early.

DP Wants Your E-mail Address

The Dartmouth Players maintains an e-mail list for their theatre/audience members. This list is used in e-mailing the weekly Theatre Nova Scotia Newsletter "Newslink" and in sending out notices for play and audition notices for our own and other local amateur and professional non-union productions. If we don't have your e-mail address, you will unfortunately miss out on a lot of opportunities. If you want to be included in our e-mail service, e-mail info@dartmouthplayers.ns.ca and ask to have your e-mail address added to our list and we will be happy to do so. Please note our privacy policy is that we **DO NOT** give your e-mail address or any other information to anyone outside of the Dartmouth Players. **Please advise us of any changes to your e-mail address. Send your name, old email address and new address to info@dartmouthplayers.ns.ca**

Dartmouth Players Scent-Free Policy

The Dartmouth Players executive wishes to make our building a comfortable place for all who come to the theatre, whether as volunteers or patrons. To this end, we would like to emphasize that the theatre is a **scent-free space**. We respectfully ask everyone to please be sensitive to others who may become ill or uncomfortable as a result of exposure to perfumes, colognes and other scented products. We thank you in advance for being considerate in this regard.

Help Dartmouth Players save the trees! Dartmouth Players mails out over 2,000 copies of our newsletter five times a year. As you can imagine this amounts to a lot of paper and a lot of printing and mailing charges. We are now making our newsletter available on our website in full colour for you to read at your convenience at www.dartmouthplayers.ns.ca. If you wish to help Dartmouth Players save the trees and reduce our mailing costs and you have internet and email service and are not a subscriber, we invite you to let us know by emailing us at info@dartmouthplayers.ns.ca asking us to cancel your "snailmail" newsletter. Then we will do so and advise you by email when each new newsletter is posted on our website. Please note: Subscribers will continue to receive their newsletter and tickets by first class mail.

Our Corporate Sponsors:



Dartmouth Community Concert Association

Saturday, February 7, 2009

- Alexander Sevastian

Three time winner of the International Accordion Competition.

An outstanding and unusual concert.

Saturday, March 7, 2009

- Marc Djokic (violin) and Julien LeBlanc (piano)

Two outstanding artists from the Maritimes who have built international reputations.

All concerts are at 8 pm in Woodlawn United Church, 54 Woodlawn Road.

Also, information can be obtained at www.dartmouthcommunityconcert.ca or 435-2968

Theatre Notice

Theatre Arts Guild

Oklahoma

February 18th to March 7th
by Rogers and Hammerstein
Directed by Gisela O'Brien

Pond Playhouse

Reservations: (902) 477-2663 or
www.tagtheatre.com

